2nd April 1955]

Fire at Curing Shed, Kozhikode

* 1836 *Q.*—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 8-50 a. m.

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the serious outbreak of fire at the Fish-Curing Yard at Kozhikode on 21st March 1955 ;

(*b*) the amount of damage; and

(*c*) the relief measures taken by them.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes. There was an outbreak of fire in the private fish-curing sheds on the Vellayil beach, opposite to the Government Oil Factory, Kozhikode, on 21st March 1955.

" (*b*) The loss is estimated at Rs. 22,000 roughly.

" (*c*) Relief measures will be considered, if necessary, after the detailed reports from the Collector of Malabar and the Director of Industries and Commerce, which have been called for, are received."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Since about a fortnight has elapsed after the outbreak of fire at the Fish-curing Yard at Kozhikode on 21st March 1955, may I know whether the Collector of Malabar has submitted a report to the Government regarding measures to be taken to afford relief to the people who have incurred losses as a result of the fire? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have not seen yet the Collector's report. But the matter is being looked into."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that all the fishing implements and also the dried fish stocked in the yard worth about Rs. 30,000 have been destroyed as a result of the fire and as on account of the loss of fishing implements the fishermen are not able to fish, will the Government expedite the question of giving relief to the owners of these 22 fish sheds? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" அந்த இடத்தில் மீன்கள் ஏதாவது வெந்துபோயிற்று ? அப்படி வெந்துபோன மீன்களை வீணாக்கினார்களா ? அல்லது உபயோகப்படுத்தினார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am sorry, I have no information."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Fire Station is situated very near the fish-curing yard where there was a serious outbreak of fire on 21st March 1955, and whether the Fire Service Squad

reached the place of accident after a delay of 20 minutes? May I also know from the Hon. Minister whether the large amount of damage caused to the fish-curing yard as a result of the fire was due to the Fire Service Squad going late to put down the fire or not?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know about it. But I shall enquire about it."

SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know the reason for the outbreak of fire?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already stated that a report has been called for."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Why not the Government, at least after receipt of the notice of this question, get a preliminary report as to the general nature of the outbreak of fire?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I got notice of the question only day before yesterday."

Election to the Corporation of Madras

* 1837 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Corporation of Madras is omitting from the Census Registers " The Castes " for the purposes of the ensuing elections to the Corporation and thereby affecting the population and the number of seats reserved for the Harijans;

(*b*) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government in the matter; and

(*c*) total number of seats allotted to the Corporation of Madras including reservations and the number of seats reserved for Harijans for the ensuing elections?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member apparently refers to the National Register of Citizens in which there is a column for noting community. The name of the community is, however, mentioned only in the case of backward classes. In the case of non-backward classes the name of the community is not specifically mentioned.

" (*c*) The total strength of the Corporation Council (excluding alderman and special Councillors) is seventy-three, after the High Court had declared that the reservation of seats for Muslims, Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians is *ultra vires* the Constitution. The number of seats reserved for the members of the Scheduled Castes. Women and labour is five, four and four respectively."